

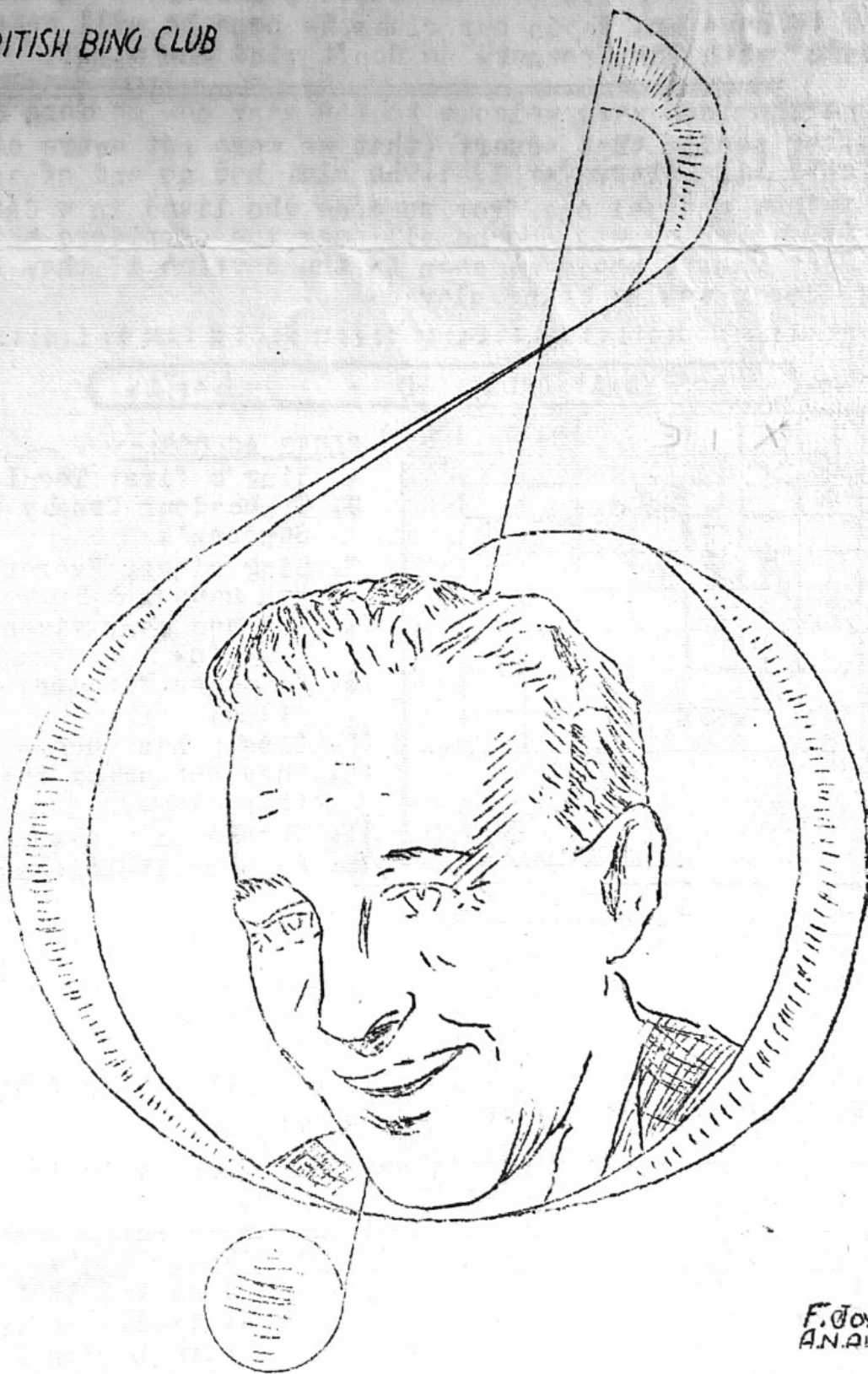
CROSBYANA

JOURNAL of the BRITISH BING CLUB

JAN-FEB. 1951.

VOL. 2.

NO. 1.



F. JOYCE
AN ALLEN.

A Crosby Welcome

—to MR. JIM WILSON, who has graciously accepted the club's offer of Honorary Membership. You have all heard about Mr. Wilson and his game of golf with Bing at St. Andrews last year and we are justly proud to have Mr. W. in our club. We hope he will enjoy many more "rounds" with the Groener. We don't mind who wins!.

A none-the-less warm welcome to the many new members who have joined us after seeing that advert (that we were not aware of) in the International Film Diary for 1951. The club had no end of applications, and one rather unusual one from someone who lived in a CASTLE. We'd bet the Crosby voice would echo all over the corridors and suspect the resident ghosts would be seen in the daytime if they heard a good Bing Crosby waxing being played.

"CROSBYANA" CROSSWORD - Number 1.



CLUES ACROSS:-

1. Bing's first Technicolor film.
3. Troubadour Crosby did this "after Sundown".
7. Bing sings, Everett collects them.
9. Van Heusen & Burke get ours.
11. One had many wives; ours has many talents.
13. We asked for more of these in Bing films.
15. Crosby has much.
16. They outnumber the opposites in this club.
17. There's only ...
18. On Hope it sticks out a mile.

CLUES DOWN:- 1. Paramount say "Mr. Music", but a university went further. 2. If you hear one of these you can bet you'll hear a tune by Jacques Offenbach. 3. Bing has had many. 4. Advertiser, came Bing, Publicity Manager! 6. Any one can have these. 8. King Arthur made the Boss this. 10. In short supply; they spell it differently in the States. 12. He dined. 13. You can have this amount of money. 14. 17 across. 16. Half a

There are no prizes for this crossword. The solution will appear in the March-April edition of "Crosbyana".

APOLOGIES TO THE PRESIDENT OF "THE SINATRAPHILES".

In the Christmas journal we (apparently) stated that Axel Stordhal was no longer associated with Frank Sinatra. Trudie Morris assures us that this is incorrect, also we moved the entire London Palladium from Argyll Street to Shaftesbury Avenue. No doubt the latter place would be accessible, but we apologise and point out that this was no fault of the author of the article, Mr. Cab Smith. Ed.

Crosbytalk

by Jean Art.

A Happy New Year

FROM US TO YOU. MAY
YOU ALL ENJOY GOOD
HEALTH, PROSPERITY
AND A BING-FUL NEW
HALF CENTURY.
TO BING WE SAY, "JUST
KEEP SINGIN' ALONG."

Our first month of 1951 has afforded us the general release of Bing's latest picture, "Mister Music". Like their major star, Paramount have 'started the New Year right'! The showing of this new film brings to the fore a very interesting topic for discussion - The Crosby Voice! "Mr. Music" features him with a much lower voice giving an even warmer and more (if it's possible) sincere sound. In these days of high pitched singers of the Al Morgan, Freddie Stewart, Joseph Locke calibre it is invigorating to hear the masculine tones of The Groaner. Bing has always been original and his new "fine brown stylings" lend just that little extra 'bing'.

One of our more than active members, Margaret Robinson, forwarded us a letter sent to her by an Alan Ladd-Frank Sinatra fan in hospital. (We didn't put him there!) Apparently, Margaret had written a suggestion for the re-issue of old Crosby films to a notable film periodical. The hospital patient replied with a very nauseating letter which was certainly not merited. Margaret asked us if we had anything to write to this impatient patient. Arthur wrote a few statistics for Margaret to use if she wished to convince her correspondent that Bing's films were worth a second or third showing and advised her to ignore the other arguments. We decided to tell you about this incident for one can waste many hours arguing with people who merely like to argue and scorn while it is best, we feel, to follow Bing's own example and IGNORE the critics' brickbats and acknowledge the bouquets. We only desire the out and out Crosby fans and have no wish to convert those who do not relish entertainment à la Bingo. Trudie Morris, president of "The Sinatrachiles" quoted Barbara Doggett, president of the Australian branch of Club Crosby, in a letter to Art recently when the aforementioned topic was under discussion. Barbara was at some fan club party down under when she was approached by an individual who asked her what she thought of Bing's rival. Miss Doggett answered, "I am running a club FOR Bing Crosby, not AGAINST Frank Sinatra." This completely sums up the view of this club. It could not have been put plainer or in a more Crosbysque manner.

Who is the most requested singer on the BBC? No need to inform you that it's Harry Lillis Crosby? On the last day of 1950 we checked how many times his records were revolved for the last "Family Favourites" two-way show in the old year. The sixty minute programme started at 10:30 am. Seven minutes later that Crosby boy came along with "Start the New Year right" and this was followed at 11:03 am with two Crosbys in "Sam's Song" while only fifteen minutes later

came "Have I told you lately that I love you?" The very next disc which ended the programme was yet another Bing; this time a solo, "Dear Hearts and Gentle People". Can there be any doubt that Mr. Bing Crosby is THE family favourite? On this high rated record request programme it has been noticeable, especially during the last few years, that while the Cones, Tormes, Eckstines and MacRaes are occasionally heard it is Bing who sings his way to heart of those dear, gentle people who never tire of the man who titles himself 'The Groaner'. Magnificent Modesty!!!

Mr. Godfrey Winn, the country's most popular writer has sent us two letters congratulating us on the club journal recently. Although we have no illusions of journalistic suprioty we do like to receive sincere appreciation from such a great personality. If you appreciate true journalistic achievement you can do no better than purchase Mr. Winn's latest book - it is one of his famous scrapbooks - and is called "Scrapbook of the Stars". Costing only half a crown it is on sale at all bookshops. His other book - a more pretentious one is "The Younger Sister" - a biography of the Princess Margaret Rose.

Our club secretary, Dot, has lately had correspondence with Mr. Jim Wilson, Bing's opponent at St. Andrews last year. He has kindly allowed us to print the text of his overseas broadcast in this issue. It is rather a long time since the tournament but we think Mr. Wilson's words are well worth reproducing for your benefit.

This issue of "Crosbyana" is reproduced by our new duplicator which you have bought for the club. We thank all the donors who so kindly helped. We can now go ahead and try even more to give members and all a better and more up-to-date "Crosbyana". More time can be used for perusing over suitable material for our journal. How about that article for the next mag.? If you can talk about Bing then it's time you wrote a line or two for your fellow fans. No need to worry about good English or spelling - it's simple sincerity that counts!-!-

Of all the Christmas cards sent to us, one was different. It was singularly so because it boasted a summer scene instead of the usual winter one. It bore the season's greetings from Barbara Doggett on behalf of the Aussie Bingologists to all of us here in Britain. We thank Barbara for remembering us although we are so many miles apart with only Bing to keep us together (a sentimental but true thought.) Another Christmas card came a long way - right from Bing in Hollywood. It depicted the Groaner in Santa Claus dress pulling a sleigh.

We are introducing one or two new features this time in accordance with your suggestions. We have been asked for a little information about the supporting players in Bing's films so further in this issue you'll find a few biographies in brief of the actors and actresses who assisted Bing in "Mister Music". Our club secretary suggested we feature the latest tit-bits from Hollywood that might interest you. There is another new item in our minds which depends on you. We'd like to print short biographies of members. This will help us get to know each other easier and better. Send your biography, if you feel inclined, to Arthur at any time.)))))

By Jean Rainey



What's New

NO HOLIES FOR M. CROSBY and Mme. HOPE ::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::
 There will be no "Road To Paris"; Paramount have decided to scrap plans for this film as the new comedy team of ~~Marti and Lewis~~ are making a film called "My Friend Irma Goes Abroad" and the powers that be don't want two comedy films with the same backgrounds. This is disappointing, but not tragic as our two friends are to be let loose on their home ground - Hollywood. The title is, of course, "The Road To Hollywood". This new departure should prove even more entertaining than a trip to gay Paree for, as we know, the film city enjoys poking fun at itself and with Bing and Bob giving more than a finger with the poking anything may happen and we bet the scriptwriters won't know about it until it's happened.

LEAVE THE DISHES IN THE SINK, BING! ::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::
 Still on the subject of our "gruesome twosome" we hear that, on a recent Crosby Bingsday broadcast the rotund subject of hooper Hope came up, (as it invariably does!) Bing was asked if he listened to the Hope show, and he replied it was a must in the Crosby household. They all sit round the fireplace after dinner on the fatal night and tune into the Bob Hope Programme. The first one to laugh has to wash the dishes. We suppose Bing has more dirty dishes that way.

THE BOSS AND THE BOBBY SOXERS ::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::
 Oh no! Well, I suppose it had to happen; Bing has been chosen (by vote) as the favourite performer of the 17,574 members of Bobby Soxers of America. This was the result of the 1950 poll recently held. The President of the association explains that this result shows that members are growing more mature in their outlook. Whatever the answer there's always room for more in the Crosby fold so MOVE OVER!!!!

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME BY BING ::::::::::::::::::::::
 "Never Say Die" was the title of an early Hope flop and it now seems that Bing is using these words as his new motto. Undaunted by the fact that his baseball team, the Pittsburgh Pirates finished at the wrong end of the league last season, he has bought more stock; also some changes have been effected in the team. My baseball authority tells me that they should do well this season. Oh well! can't be top in everything Bing.

NOT THE FIRST TIME :::::

It will not be the first time that the talented Jane Wyman has appeared in a film with Bing when "Here Comes The Groom" is shot for Jane started on the ladder to fame the hard way and played a chorus girl in many pictures including an early Crosby saga.

THE MINSTREL OF THE LITTLE MEN:

Although the American musical magazine, "Metronome" held a poll among it's jazz fan readers and Billy Eckstine was found to be vocalist of the year the man in the street, who was also asked, still plumped for Harry Lillis Crosby . . . the best known voice in the world.

PARAMOUNT NEWS OF HOLLYWOOD.

December 14th was the first day on the floor for "Here Comes the Groom" (Bing, Jane Wyman, Franchot Tone, Alexis Smith, Robert Keith, James Barton, Connie Gilchrist, Anna Maria Alberghetti and Jackie Gancel). It is a romantic comedy written by Virginia Van Upp and Myles Connolly.

Cecil B. De Mille's new masterpiece, "The Greatest Show on Earth", is now being lined up. A circus, picture, this "parade of stars" has Lucille Ball as Angel, the elephant girl; Dorothy Lamour as the "iron jaw" girl; Betty Hutton, as a trapeze girl while James Stewart was signed up last week as the clown, Koko. The two other important male roles have yet to be filled. They are Brad the circus manager and Sebastian, the devil-may-care aerialist. If Paramount want someone to swing by his nose, we remind them that they have a suitable extra on their pay roll who has worked with the three female stars above before.

THEY WORKED WITH BING. Snap biographies of players featured in Paramount's "Mister Music".

RUTH HUSSEY: - born Providence, Rhode Island, height 5' 1½". Made stage debut in American Repertory. Has appeared on radio shows and eventually reached New York stage. Films include: -H.M. Pulham, Esq.-The Uninvited-Tender Comrade-Bedside Manner-Marine Raiders and Mister Music.

CHARLES COBURN: born June 19th, 1877, Macon, Georgia. real name Charles Douville Coburn. Started stage career 1890. Founded Coburn Shakespearian Company. Films include: - Florian, Man of the Hour, Paradine Case, Polly Fullerton, The Green Years, Green Grass of Wyoming, Personal Column and Mister Music.

ROBERT STACK:= born January 13th, 1919 Los Angeles. Is a millionaire. ht. 5' 1", blue eyes, blond hair. At Hollywood Dramatic School was approached by talent scouts, but feeling not ready, he declined offer and went on stage till finally persuaded to make film debut with Deanna Durbin in "First Love" Other films include: To be or not to be-Eagle Squadron-Fighter Squadron-A date with Judy and Mister Music.

BING'S TOP PLACE IN A RECENT BOBBYSOX POLL IS GOOD REASON FOR US TO PRINT THIS STORY WRITTEN BY A BINGITE WHO IS VERY MUCH IN THE BOBBYSOX LEAGUE.

BINGITIS

by Leona Burnside

People have often told me to go right on dreaming about Bing. "No harm in dreaming," they'd say, "After all, that's all you can do - dream!"

But ha! They were all surprised when December 10th, 1945 came round, 'cause on that memorable day, my greatest dream came true.

Here's how it happened! The night before, I caught Bing at the Waldorf. He had a cab waiting so he only had time to take my phone number.

The next day I was up at six, even had my hat and coat on and ther I set - next to the phone. For hours I waited - but it just wouldn't ring. Then finally at eleven it RANG. At first I thought it was my imagination, but I nervously grabbed the receiver and yelled, "Hello." A soft low voice answered, "Is this Leona?" Gosh, right then I knew it was Bing - but for some stupid reason I said "Yes, who is this?"

"This is Mr. Crosby," he kinda went down deep on "Crosby". He arranged for me to meet him that night, and go on to the special force radio programme. Before hanging up he said, "Now get your broom and get back to your housework."

I ran over, kissed the broom, and out I went to see another Bingite. Together we nearly died waiting for eight o'clock, our time for meeting Bing. We bought a beautiful white carnation for Mr. C.

He arrived at seven-thirty and, of course, we were there too. He greeted us with, "Hi there!". We went up in the lift and when we arrived at the correct floor Bing moved aside for me to get out first. I knew I'd do something wrong, I tripped over his foot and nearly fell flat on my face. I just looked at Bing and laughed.

Soon we were sitting in the studio and Bing was running thru "White Christmas" and, honest, I didn't think he could know so many people. He went over to everyone who came in, shook hands and said, "Why, it's been ages. Wasn't it eight years ago in Chicago?"

Finally, I gave him the carnation and he hung on to it all the evening. He chewed it, twirled it, smelled it, hung it on his ear but never let it go, except for once when he dropped it while he was talking over the mike. He looked down at us. We must have looked awfully worried because as soon as he could he reached down for the flower and picked it up.

We talked about the club, it's progress, the BINGITES BUGLE. He gave me his autograph, writing "To my friend, Leona. Thankyou, Bing"

People say he doesn't dress very well but you should have seen him on this occasion. He looked so neat and smart. I will admit

CROSBYANA - page (continued from preceding p.)
his coat was a little loud, but it was different! The colours I noticed, were blue, tan and grey. Other Bingites saw many other colours and I wouldn't doubt any of them for I guess that type of coat affects all people differently.

During his performance he did many amusing things. He danced; laughed at the other performers telling them they were corny. Then he occasionally looked down and winked at us. The other artists thought him wonderful. You could hear them say, "That guy'll never be beat."

Much too soon it was all over and we went down a private lift with Bing. Gee! you simply cannot flatter him. I was trying to tell him what a good performance he turned in for "The Bells of St. Marys" when he broke in with, "Isn't Miss Bergman pretty" and "doesn't she make a nice nun?" All in one breath I said, "Yes - and you make a pretty good priest too!" He laughed, looked at Paul Whiteman, and said, "Did you see how cleverly I wheedled that statement out of her?"

Well, folks, he's so terribly nice. Right away he put me at ease.

Before I left him, I said, "Thanks a million, Bing". He came right back with, "Thank you; Leone." Can you imagine?? he thanked me!! Leone Burnside runs the New York "Bingites" club. Mrs. Crosby is as much a part of this club as Bing is. Dixie's letters appear in "The Bingites Bulletin", and her quiz interviews bring forth interesting sidelights on the happy home life of the Crosby menagerie. When Bing publicised the Sister Kenny Infantile Paralysis Fund drive Bingites did their share.

(The above is a reprint from the American "Modern Screen" publication entitled, "The Fans")))))

THE WAY IT LOOKS TO ME.

by Bing Crosby.

FROM WHERE I SIT, tolerance is just a fancy word for plain, ordinary decency. My feeling is that when you take the time to find out about your fellow human beings you can't help but be decent. Understand the way someone ticks and, brother, the word 'tolerance' makes you blush.

When I was a small fry, loafing around Spokane, something happened in a nearby church which I've never forgotten. It's stuck in my head, and I'd like to pass it on to you for what it's worth.

An old coloured man, very religious, applied for membership in this exclusive church. The pastor put the old boy off with all sorts of evasive remarks. The old Negro realised he wasn't wanted and said he would ask the Lord what to do.

A couple of days later, on his return the pastor asked him if the Lord had spoken to him and the coloured man replied, "Yessir, He told me it wasn't no use, and that He'd been trying to get into this church for ten years and still can't make it."

That little story seems to me to pack the biggest wallop in the world against prejudice of any kind.))))

Enterprising Mr. Crosby

FEATURED IN "NEWS REVIEW", now combined with "Illustrated."

In a world confused by conflicting trends in popular music, one backtracking to the tuneful twenties, another determined to reflect the frantic fifties, the best way to get it straight seemed to be from the man WHO IS POPULAR MUSIC!

"News Review" found him—a mild unassuming man of 45, going rather bald—lounging at the Ritz Hotel in grey silk pyjamas and yellow dressing gown.

"Which way is public taste in popular music going?"

"Well," said the smooth, easy voice, "in the States the rage is all for hill-billy music."

"Do you like it?"

"No!!"

Harry Lillis "Bing" Crosby was emphatic. He prefers the kind of song "where people can hear the words," the kind that Jerome Kern wrote. "Of course you have to give the public what it wants," adds Bing.

And there speaks a man who knows, for he has been giving more people more of what they want for more years than any other entertainer in the history of show business. To keep that product going round the world requires enterprise -- Bing Crosby Enterprises, Inc., in fact.

When, Mr. Harry Lillis Crosby, as the St. Andrews authorities had it sauntered casually on to the first tee for the 1950 Amateur Golf Open Championship he was not only a man able to take care of himself in a bunker, but one of the richest temporary sterling-dollar investments outside Marshall Aid!

For Bing, apart from owning the best known voice on earth, the most relaxed thing next to a smoke ring, and the Great American Wish-Fulfilment legend, is also big business to the cheerful tune of some million dollars a year.

"How much are you worth?" Bing was asked in Paris, as he alternately recorded songs for his radio show in the States and practised chip shots.

"Well, if I liquidated," observed Bing, after a pause for mental reckoning-up, "I suppose about a million and a half dollars in cash."

But, such is the scope of Bing Crosby, Inc., that liquidation would be a long job. So many people are dependent on him.

Once a week, when Bing is in Hollywood (about nine months of the year), he drives up, like any other president, to the Crosby building to see how the wheels of his industry are turning.

CROSBYANA - Page Ten. "The Enterprising Mr. Crosby," continued. A three story white stucco building, trimmed with blue and gold it stands imposingly on Sunset Boulevard, it's upper floors containing almost the entire Crosby family.

In the biggest office, with the most handsomely carved desk, sits brother Everett, a key man in the Crosby brains trust. Known in Hollywood as the Wrong Crosby, Everett has smooth black hair, and the genial manner of a successful boxing promoter. He makes about \$15,000 a year by managing his brother's interests, "Bing sings the notes and I collect them!" says Everett happily.

Everett had a haulage business in 1926 when one day young Bing and his friend, Al Rinker ("Two Boys and a Piano: own Tuxedos: go anywhere.") rattled into Los Angeles in an \$8 car. He has managed Bing ever since, through Mack Sennet comedies and the Whiteman era, and has the same faith in him as he has in the American constitution.

At another desk in the Crosby stronghold sits elder brother Larry, quiet, graying, slow spoken, Larry is publicity manager, and he handles Bing's correspondence, charities, fan clubs, advertising and publicity. He also runs the Crosby Research Foundation which develops inventions for hard-up gadget makers.

In and out of the building at various times are also three other back room boys - a top L.A. lawyer, a tax expert and an accountant.

There is a permanent staff of ten, and five more office workers at Bing's Hollywood home. For the weekly Crosby radio show there are, on a permanent basis, 25 musicians, five close harmony singers, three arrangers, two writers, two engineers, one producer, two stagehands, two secretaries, two handymen and one accountant. Sixteen cowhands run the Crosby ranch in Nevada.

In the background, but bathed in the warm glow of the Crosby fortune, are his mother, three more brothers, two sisters, his wife, Dixie Lee (formerly Wilma Wyatt) and four sons.

"With all these people depending on me," says Bing, with a shrug, "how could I retire?"

Most of the vast income that pours through the accounting machines up in the Crosby Building is split with the Treasury, 91% for taxes and 9% for Crosby, Inc. And Bing can hardly make anymore than a million dollars a year, for he is already so booked up that the mere mention of a luncheon date gives him that crowded, suffocating feeling.

To make this 'break-down' a little more favourable, Bing set off in 1946 the biggest revolution in U.S. radio until "give-aways" came along.

He waited until he could get out of his Kraft Music Hall contract and then put himself up for sale to advertisers - on certain conditions!

He insisted, first, that he should record his shows at leisure second, that Bing Crosby Enterprises should sell the entire half hour show as a "package" to the sponsor, so that, after paying production costs the large profits would count as capital gains, subject to a much lower tax than income.

With Bing as no. 1 radio attraction (he draws some \$30,000 a year from it), Big Business put more pressure on him than anyone else except the President, General Motors, Texaco, Reynolds Pens and even Kraft, offered him everything including oil wells to sign for them.

"The Enterprising Mr. Crosby," continued. CROSBYANA . Page Eleven
Finally Philco radio got Bing and he got his conditions.

It is from gramophone records, however, that Bing draws the biggest return for his persuasive romancing.

Royalties come to about £100,000 per year, for his records outsell any others anywhere in the world, including the United Kingdom. BBC gets more requests for Crosby records than for any other artist's. In the States he sells more than 12,000,000 a year.

The man who took a chance on Bing years ago, Jack Kapp, president of American Decca Merchandise made more than a million pounds out of Bing waxings. Kapp died a rich man last year. It was not until 1945 that Bing Crosby, Inc. and Decca decided to draw up a contract. Right from 1931 when Decca was established Bing and Jack's telephone agreement was the only bond.

As an actor, Bing has been No. 1 at the international box office for the past eight years, and collects, roughly, £30,000 per motion picture. He does two and a half each year.

Bing has shares in a frozen food product called Minute Maid and to launch this product, he became a disc jockey, playing mostly his own records for fifteen minute sessions on a coast to coast show.

Just before the 1939-1945 war Bing became turf crazy and spent thousands on slow racehorses; they never once won a race but they provided Bob Hope with a million jokes. Bing then went shares in a million dollar race track at Del Mar and declared a fat profit when he sold his share for £120,000 in 1946.

Baseball comes only second, in Bing's estimation, to golf, and when Bob Hope became part owner in the Cleveland Indians team, Bing bought himself 14% of the Pittsburgh Pirates for £53,000. The cattle industry, too, got a helping hand from Bing—he bought a ranch for £10,000 down at Santa Fe Springs, and took a lease, at £8,5000 a year, on a 30,000 acre grazing plot at San Luis Gonzaga.

Crosby, Inc., was interested in everything that paid off and some that cost plenty. Bing is a devout Roman Catholic (he learned his knack of perfect phrasing during his Jesuitical training in responses) and since "Going My Way" there is never any lack of parishes to be saved by Father O'Malley, observes Everett with a sigh. The royalties on "Silent Night" and "Adeste Fideles" go to Catholic charities.

Yes, Crosby is BIG BUSINESS. "But, lately we've been trying to consolidate," he confided, "Now I'm building up a few only. Oil is one, pictures and radio another, shares in baseball teams — and there may be others."

Bing Crosby Enterprises, Inc., is still booming along, showing no signs of losing momentum. This one man industry has no labour troubles; the only depreciation in 20 years is easily fixed (for films only) by a Max Factor toupee — cost £18.

And it's million dollar assets are a shareholders dream. Bing hasn't had a sore throat in 19 years.))))))

BING - AT ONE SHILLING A MINUTE, WITH ORCHESTRA!!!

Brunswick Records (branch of the Decca Record Company) have had to increase the prices of their ten inch records to SIX SHILLINGS including tax — an extra threepence. Operative from January 1st, 1951.

the groover IN THE GROOVE



We are sorry to announce that Lee's Record Reviews arrived to late for inclusion in this issue. Art hopes his reviews below will be a reasonable substitute.

THE NEW ISSUES REVIEWED IN THIS FEATURE: -

- 04602 AUTUMN LEAVES with Axel Stordhal and his orchestra.
HARBOR LIGHTS with chorus and orchestra dir. by Lyn Murray.
- 04606 MARSHMALLOW WORLD with Lee Gordon Singers, orchestra d. Sonny
ALL MY LOVE with Alexander chorus, Victor Young orch. /Burke.
- 04608 SILVER BELLS with CAROLE RICHARDS, John Scott Trotter orchestra.
THAT XMAS FEELING with Jeff Alexander Chorus, J.S. Trotter orch.
- 04610 CROSBY CHRISTMAS (That Xmas Feeling; I'd like to hitch a ride;
 The Snowman) with Gary, Phillip, Dennis, Lindsay Crosby, Jeff Alexander chorus and John Scott Trotter orchestra.
- 04613 LIFE IS SO PECULIAR with ANDREWS SISTERS, Vic Schoen orchestra.
HIGH ON THE LIST both from Paramount's "Mister Music".
- 04622 & YOU'LL BE HOME with Ken Lane Singers, Victor Young orch.
ACCIDENTS WILL HAPPEN with orchestra (both from "Mister Music")
- 04624 M I L A D Y with DOROTHY KIRSTEN and orchestra (from "Mr. Music")
IT'S A COLD, COLD WINTER with ANDREWS SISTERS & Vic Schoen orch.

"AUTUMN LEAVES" finds Axel Stordhal, famed Sinatra backer-upper, supplying Bing with a reasonably good orchestration. The song is good and had been tried a more virile interpretation the disc would have been a memorable one however Bing is inclined to slurr and thus we have only an average rendering.

Turn the record over and we have an old favourite enjoying a new lease at the hands of the maestro. Top marks, especially when a delightful chorus casually joins a most casual Crosby.

There are some good patches in "IT'S A MARSHMALLOW WORLD" altho the song sounds as if it's from the mill. Sonny Burke has an excellent string section but it's wasted on this type of everyday song which is hardly Crosby material.

"ALL MY LOVE" is "Bolero" dressed up with a new lyric. Bings sounds enthusiastic and actually snaps in one part but the tune isn't worth anybody's energy.

The best Christmas song from Bing, this year, is "SILVER BELLS" with Carole "Sunshine Cake" Richards. Miss Richards falls into the Crosby warmhearted style and the result is an exceptinally fine disc. "THAT CHRISTMAS FEELING" from the pencils of Van Heusen and Burke, is surprisingly a nostalgic little number just right for Bing. He helps the lyrics along with intervections from the Jeff Alexander chorus.

This song is again featured, along with others from Bing's song tailors, in a disc called "A CROSBY CHRISTMAS". On it we have Bing and all the little Bingtones. Gary joins Dad in "Christmas Feeling" then comes Lindsay with "I'd like to hitch a ride with Santa Claus" followed on the second side by the twins who have a go at "The Snowman". Verdict: - Pappa Crosby is good, Lindsay is terrific, the twins are out of tune and Gary might as well have been.

We have five tunes (by the "boys", Van Heusen and Burke) from "Mister Music". On 04622 there's "HIGH ON THE LIST" and "LIFE IS SO PECULIAR". Peculiar aptly describes the lyrics. They sound as though somebody, not Bing, thought them up as they went along. The Sisters make matters worse and "Life" was done much better in the film version by Bing and Groucho Marx. They should have let Groucho loose when they cut this one. "High on the list" is the sort of song which keeps Van Heusen and Burke from ever being there.

In fairness to the two songwriters I must congratulate them on the two songs executed by Bing on 04622 (AND YOU'LL BE HOME and ACCIDENTS WILL HAPPEN) The former wasn't plugged in "Mister Music". If it had it would be at the top of the parade. Bing sings in his best manner, although he's a bit thin in the first chorus. He gives out after wards and he could not be better than when he is joined by the chorus of Ken Lane Singers. He forsakes his crooning style for a moment and sings straight making an altogether outstanding recording. The other side is equally well done. Essentially croon this one, it could have been made ten years ago but it could not be rendered better. Bing is far better on this recording than he was, when singing this song in the film. 04622 is one of the best Crosby discs we've had for a long time and the fact that both tunes on it are by Van Heusen and Burke serves to prove that every dog has his day so a juicy bone to both of them for a fine peice of composing.

Yet another "Mister Music" song pops up on Brunswick labels. "MILADY" features Bing with star of the New York Metropolitan Opera. Miss Kirsten is quite at home with Bing - she should be for a guy named Bing, an Englishman, runs the New York Met these days. The song is not so hot but the recording is evidence that Bing can hold his own with any artist, even a soprano of Dorothy Kirsten's calibre. Bing appears with the Andrews Sisters once again on the reverse of this record (IT'S A COLD, COLD WINTER) No doubt you have already realised this fact but the foursome do a decent job and manage to come up with their heads high.

A.N.A.

The St. John's Hospital Guild in California have a specially recorded single sided disc privately made by Bing called "Why Do I Like You?" Dacca sent the Guild 10000 copies then destroyed the master. Each disc is numbered and personally autographed by Bing.

A small number of these discs have been set aside for club members at \$5.00 per disc. Interested parties are asked to send their donations to St. John's Hospital, 1328, 22nd Street, Santa Monica, California. Please mention the name of "Ruth Ness", president of the American Club Crosby.

THE BRITISH AMATEUR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP AT ST. ANDREWS.

Text of Mr. Jim Wilson's talk in the B.B.C's
Overseas radio service.

I first met Bing Crosby, one of Nature's most happy-go-lucky gentlemen, prior to our first round match on Monday morning.

He put me at ease immediately; so much so that there we were right in front of a battery of microphones and cameras. We talked and wisecracked whilst the cameras whirled away.

Afterwards we swapped clubs and hit a few balls. The enormous crowds made me feel rather nervous in anticipation of what was to come on Monday morning. However, I had to face it; there was to be no crawling about for me. The newspapers had told of his fiery start - 3, 3, 4. "Gee Whiz!" I said to myself, "3 played and 3 down!" - and the mighty roars as his putts went up and dropped for the birdies certainly shook me.

Walking up to the fourth fairway I said to Bing "Well, well! I'll have to put a stop to this. You can't do this to me on my ain midden heid." "Say that again" he asked, "You know, Bing, that's Scotch for 'home ground'."

I won the fourth where he went for the wrong green, then the sixth where poor Bing had a share of our St. Andrews whins, or bushes as he called them.

During the play he was profuse in his praise of our crowd control arrangements. He thought it was wonderful.

We had quite a wait at the tenth tee and during this I said I felt hungry. "Have a candy bar." he said, pulling out two bars of lovely American cream nutty chocolate. We chewed contentedly to the accompaniment of many loud "ohs!" from the crowds.

He lost the tenth and eleventh which gave me a lead for the first time.

At the thirteenth, Bing got the bunker on the edge of the green. He played a marvellous shot but missed the putt leaving me three up.

I was out of bounds at the fourteenth which meant one back for Bing. I halved the next and won the sixteenth - and the match!!

To the nearby crowd over the wall Bing said, "Well folks! I've had a wonderful day, played a wonderful guy on a wonderful golf course. Come on, Jim. I'll play you for 2/6 a hole in the byes. I halved the seventeenth and won the 2/6 with a birdie three on the last green."

We got photographs from the press. Bing autographed mine: -
"To my friend Jim. Thanks for a fine day at the old golf course."
I wrote on his, "In remembrance of a very fine game."))))

The club wishes to thank Mr. Wilson for allowing us to reproduce the above broadcast text which was originally relayed on May 25th, 1950.

RICHARD ATTENBOROUGH and JIM WILSON join the club.

In "Crosbytalk" we mentioned that Mr. Jim Wilson had consented to become an honorary member of our club. A day or two later we had a wonderful letter from the leading British star of Films, radio and television also accepting honorary membership. Their letters of acceptance appear below:-

From RICHARD ATTENBOROUGH

Dear Arthur,

I have been a one man Bing Crosby club for a long time so it is with more than ordinary pleasure that I accept your invitation to become an honorary member of the British Bing Club.

All best wishes for the future success of the Club and that wonderful artists in whose honour the club has been formed.

Yours very sincerely,

Richard Attenborough
RICHARD ATTENBOROUGH

From JIM WILSON

(Extract from Mr. Wilson's letter to our Club Secretary, Mrs. Dot Hardiman.)

....now for the surprise you handed me. I guess you could have knocked me down with a feather when I read that you really wanted me to become an honorary member of the Club. I must say you are most kind. I gratefully accept the offer. Please convey my warmest thanks to all in the club.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

Jim Wilson
JIM WILSON

"ALAN LADD'S FRIENDLY CIRCLE."

We are pleased to announce the above fan club for Paramount's great star, Alan Ladd. The club is conducted by Miss Pearl Abbott, 32, Kestrel Avenue, Brambles Farm, Middlesbrough, Yorkshire. At the moment the club has 102 members and it was established at the same time as our club, in February, 1950. The annual fee is 4/-. Members are sent a biography of the star, photograph, four copies of "Spotlight on Alan" and a personally autographed photograph direct from Hollywood.

CROSBYANA - Back cover.

T H E B R I T I S H B I N G C L U B .

- Honorary President:- BING CROSBY, 9028, Sunset Boulevard, Hollywood.
- Hon. Vice President:- LARRY CROSBY, 9028, Sunset Boulevard, Hollywood.
- Honorary Members:- MARGARET LOCKWOOD, JOHN MILLS, RICHARD ATTENBOROUGH, GODFREY WINN, JIM WILSON.
- Active Presidents:- JEAN RAINEY, 41, Basing Hill, Wembley.
A.N. ALLEN, 68, Grimston Road, Radford, Nottm.
- Vice President:- LESLIE GAYLOR, 41, Linden road, Newport, E. of W.
- Club Secretary:- DOT. HARTMAN, 1/7, New St., Smethwick, Staffs.
- Club Representatives:- COLIN PUGH, Patchway Farm, Almondsbury, Bristol.
REG. DAVIS, 101, Ridgway, Wimbledon, London, SW19.
AVRIL DEVINE, Kilbannan, Waterside, Derry, N.I.
- Magazine Production:- Editor, A.N. ALLEN; Associate Editor, R.R. DAVIS;
Contributors, LESLIE GAYLOR, JEAN RAINEY, COLIN PUGH, etc.

The British Bing Club was established in March, 1950 and authorised by Bing Crosby. The club is associated with the U.S.A Club Crosby.

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EXCHANGE And MART. Club members advertisement section.

Following Bing discs FOR SALE, at 5/- each:- Columbia, DB 1964, 1990, 2027, 2035, 2142, 2043, 2085, 2137, 2153. All deletions. --Write to:- Mr. J. HARRIS, NAUNTON, UPTON-ON-SEVERN, WORCESTERSHIRE.

8"x6" Candid stills of Bing at Southampton on board Q. Elizabeth last year. PRICE 5/- --Messrs. OCEAN PICTURES (SOUTHAMPTON Ltd.) 122, OXFORD AVENUE, SOUTHAMPTON.

Stills from films featuring Bing Crosby, PRICE 1/-, 10"x8" -- from PARAMOUNT FILM SERVICE (PUBLICITY DEPT.) 162-70, WARDOUR STREET, LONDON, W.1.

Will the member who submitted advertisement of records for exchange numbers, DB 2142, 1901, 2153, 2208 and asking for eight old Brunswicks please write to Art.

THE BOND BETWEEN THE BING FANS. Johnny Joyce wishes to record Ralph Harding's 'true Crosby gesture'. Johnny bought some discs from Ralph. 2 discs were broken in transit. Ralph sent three others as compensation. As a footnote Art wishes to suggest that the CARTER-PATERSON parcel service is the best and safest means of transporting fragile gramophone records.

"CROSBYANA", journal of the British Bing Club, is FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY and is available for club members only.